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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

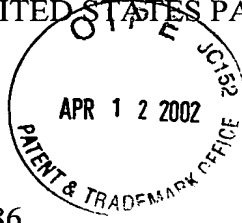
In re Application of:

DERKS, et al.

Application No. 10/042,286

Filed: January 11, 2002-04-12

Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ESTERS OF (METH)ACRYLIC ACID



Confirmation No. 4594

Group/Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

April 12, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims.

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3. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein when a β -hydroxy forming component, an amine component, a carbodiimide component or a mixture of two or more thereof is present, said component(s) are added only after the acidic catalyst has been neutralized with said at least one component that forms an ester compound not having a β -hydroxy group or forms an amid compound.